

Spring 2010

## Counselors Corner: A Newsletter of the Department of Counselor Education

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**A Newsletter of the  
Department of Counselor Education**

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# Chair's Message



Well, it's time for another Counselor Corner Newsletter, faithfully authored and assembled by *your* faculty. It is also time for another "note from the Chair." Since the last newsletter, the department has undergone a few changes. Dr. Susan Seem has gone on to take a leadership role here at the College heading up the Office of Graduate Studies, and I have the pleasure of serving you, our students, the faculty, and the College as Chair of the department: Quite a change. The corner office isn't too shabby, either!

Even so, the department continues to move forward in a scholarly and productive way. Each of the faculty continue to conduct research and are carrying out very active scholarly publication agendas. In addition, we continue striving to improve the programs we offer and make them relevant. Currently, the faculty are already looking at the new CACREP (2009) standards and we are reviewing our entire curriculum to further enrich your educational experiences.

By the time you receive this, all of the faculty and I will have had the opportunity to attend the ACA Conference in Pittsburgh (and some of us will have gone through additional CACREP training as well!). I know that some of you are going, but I will take this moment (since I am at the keyboard) to encourage you all to take advantage of professional development opportunities like ACA, its branch and division conferences, and the many local and regional conferences available for professional counselors. These are still one of the best ways to contextualize what you learn in the classroom and your clinical experiences with best practices and innovative research in your area of specialization. I should also mention it's a great way to network with other professionals from around the country and the world, and maybe find a job!

While it is an economically challenging time to be a New Yorker, it is an equally brave time to be a counselor. There are challenges to the work we do and to our identity in schools, colleges and universities, and many issues to face in licensing the practice of counseling in mental health settings. Remember: Counseling is your profession, and you practice your craft in a variety of clinical settings. Even so, we are counselors first. The important thing is that you remember your core, your "self," if you will. As we all move forward in our professional challenges, we must always work together to serve our clients and develop ourselves *and* our profession: We are counselors.

I hope that you are having a productive semester. My door is always open, and I *do* look forward to visitors and seeing you in class!

Thomas J. Hernández, EdD, LMHC  
Chair  
Associate Professor

# Department Announcements

**Before you enter EDC 720:** School Counseling students must complete the Child Abuse Reporting and the SAVE trainings, and College and Mental Health Counseling students must complete the Child Abuse Reporting training.



## DID YOU KNOW?

All students are required to provide written documentation of completing 6 counseling sessions prior to starting EDC 720: Integration and Application of Basic Concepts (Practicum).

## CHILD ABUSE REPORTING AND SAVE TRAINING

The NYS Mandated Reporter Training (which you have to take before EDC720) is now available 24/7 at <http://www.nysmandatedreporter.org/default2.html>. Once you have completed the training make sure to print your certificate of attendance and submit to the department.

Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) training will be provided in EDC 619 Counseling in School Settings. This training is required for students in the School Counselor emphasis.



## Graduate Assistantship

The department is pleased to announce that it has received continued funding for a graduate assistantship for the fall and spring semesters 2010-2011. The department is looking for someone to help with faculty research, department assessment and management of the Graduate Room, among other duties. Computer skills and knowledge of word processing and statistical packages are required. You must be a matriculated student in order to be eligible for the assistantship.

The assistantship is for 15 hours a week for both fall and spring semesters. It includes tuition for up to 9 credits per semester and a stipend of \$6,000 for both the fall and spring semesters.

To apply, fill out an application and provide a resume and a cover letter, stating the reasons for your interest in the assistantship. Anne Nenni, the department's secretary, has application forms and job descriptions.

**The deadline date for applications is Friday April 23, 2010 at 12 noon.** Please submit your application and supplemental material to Dr. Thomas J. Hernández, Chair. The department will make its decision shortly after that date.

If you have any questions, please call Dr. Hernández at 395-2258.

## Professional Counselor Organizations

### Nu Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota



I'm encouraged and inspired by the arrival of spring and what the new season holds. Nu Chapter has been continuing to redefine itself. We are always looking for ways to meet the needs of current students as well as serving graduates who are working in the counseling field.

In November, Nu Chapter co-presented "Strategies for Effective and Quality Professional Presentations" with the Counselor Education Department. Dr. Tom Hernandez and Dr. Susan Seem gave a thorough presentation on important skills and techniques for developing a variety of professional presentations. This has been a well-attended presentation and the goal is to continue this program on an annual basis.

The Counselor Education Department and Nu Chapter collaborated to present a program in January on the State of the Counseling Profession in New York State. Counseling professionals, counseling educators, current students, and recent graduates met at Rochester Institute of Technology for an information session on key issues facing the future of the counseling field. There were presentations from the 3 focus areas. Dr. Summer Reiner presented on school counseling and Dr. Signe Kastberg, Director of the Mental Health Counseling Program at St. John Fisher, spoke on mental health counseling. Darlene Schmitt, Assistant Director of the Counseling Center at Brockport, presented on college counseling issues. A panel discussion addressed many questions and concerns that attendants were facing. The program wrapped up with breakout sessions based on the 3 focus areas. The main theme from the program was professional collaboration and advocacy.

This semester, Nu Chapter is planning a professional development program. Many topics have been discussed and the program announcement will be made soon. Please look for details via email.

I hope that the opening months of 2010 have been positive and rewarding for all of you. I would like to wish all of you success in your academic work as you continue in your development as a professional counselor.

Thank you,

Mindy Chamberlin

Nu Chapter President

### Mental Health Counselors of Greater Rochester



The Mental Health Counselors of Greater Rochester, a chapter of NYMHCA, exists to advance the profession of mental health counseling and clinical excellence through education, networking and peer support. The chapter was established in 2003 to support the needs of local counselors, mental health providers and students. Since then, our membership has grown to include over 60 active members.

MHCGR hosts 8 business/professional development meetings at the MetroCenter (55 St Paul St) each month. Professional development presentations are dynamic and relevant. Certificates of attendance are provided to those in attendance. Networking events are held in place of chapter meetings in January, April, July and October. Dates, times and locations of meetings/events can be found on our website, [mentalhealthcounselors.org](http://mentalhealthcounselors.org).

We encourage and welcome students to visit our meetings/events up to 3 times before you decide to join us. Membership of NYMHCA is required for membership of our chapter. To join NYMHCA and MHCGR log onto [www.nymhca.com](http://www.nymhca.com).



## Student Poster Presentations!

### Welcome New Students!

The following Students were accepted last semester:

Renee Abbott  
Laura Clark  
Latasha Craig  
Evangelia Elovaris  
Christina Latone  
Danielle Montagiano  
Keri Neadom  
Kaitlyn Osterling  
Brittany Petraca  
Angela Pezzimenti  
Amanda Regan  
Lindsay Rollo  
Natasja Rudge  
Timothy Sorge



Want to know more about the integration experience? Talk to one of these students who are taking EDC 720...

Laura Hicks  
Syd Houseknecht  
Nicole King  
Lisa Shults  
Saarah Waleed

### 2010 Scholars Day: Presentations- Theses

- ⇒ *Student Service Needs of Non-Caucasian Students in a Four Year University*  
Daniel Kandris
- ⇒ *School Counselors' Experience of the Impact of Student Suicide*  
Stacy Bowman
- ⇒ *The Psychological implications of Obesity in High School Students*  
Lindsay Daniel
- ⇒ *Middle School Student Athlete-*  
Michael J. Gorton
- ⇒ *Staff Preparedness for Extreme Acts of School Violence*  
Jenna Winicki
- ⇒ *Narratives from Grief Coun-*

*seling: Client Perspectives on Effective Interventions and Strategies for Recovery* -  
Janalee Weaver

- ⇒ *Narrative Therapy as Treatment for Children With a History of Severe Attachment Disruption*  
Carrienne Sorenson

- ⇒ *The Influence of Social Networking Participation on Student Academic Performance Across Gender Lines*  
Kaitlyn C. Flad

- ⇒ *Relational Aggression and the Impact It Has on Female Adolescents*

Rebecca C. Hamilton

- ⇒ *Evaluating the Accuracy of Childhood Mental Health Di-*

*agnosis in a Clinical Setting*  
Meg Moses

- ⇒ *The Role of Perceived Parental Influences on College Students' Career Self-Efficacy-*  
Kristen Roach

### **2010 ACA Conference**

- ⇒ *The Social and Emotional Experiences of Women with Chronic Pelvic Pain and Sexual Dysfunction*  
Yamalis Hernandez and Kassy Gallup

### **2010 WNYSCC Conference**

- ⇒ *Assessing the Need for Elementary School Counselors-*  
Andrew Beringer, Syd Houseknecht, Nicole King, Nick Sculli

### **Scholars Day Action Research Projects**

#### *Spirituality in School Counseling Focus Groups*

- ⇒ *In an Urban Setting:* Jeffrey Mangini, Michael Nobles, Bryan Rivera, Sara Thomas
- ⇒ *In a Rural Setting:* Alexander Clark, Carli Delgatti, Laura Hale, Angela Pezzimenti
- ⇒ *In a Suburban Setting:* Jenna Marchetta, Kyle McCarthy, Joe Navarra, Amy Powell
- ⇒ *Spirituality in Schools: A Survey-* Rosa Luciano-Julbe, Leslie Pierre-Philippe, Elissa Townsend

It was discovered that most school counselors and other school personnel see spirituality as a positive resource. Hope, values, goal setting, stress management, interconnectedness, and identity were recognized as aspects of spirituality. Some stated that they use spirituality in their work and others were surprised to discover that they may have been using spirituality without calling it that. Concerns were expressed about spirituality being identified with religion and the requirement of separation of church and state. Participants seemed to recognize the ethical mandate to not impose one's values on students.

- ⇒ *Hiring Practices and Attitudes Toward Licensed Mental Health Counselors* - Loren Goldstein, Nathan Hendrickson, Megan Taylor, Jesse Williams

Due to the significant current discourse surrounding the topic of hiring Mental Health Counselors, we examined the hiring practices toward Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs) in western New York by mental health agency and counseling center directors. Overall, directors are satisfied with the skills and qualifications that LMHCs bring. It was found that restrictive scope of practice and insurance and Medicare reimbursement concerns are obstacles. Advocacy efforts must be made to inform prospective employers of the strengths that the credential offers, and to change restrictive legislation.

## **Implementation I Student Internship Placements**

Leticia Alston— Catholic Family Center

Kassy Gallup— Webster-Schroeder High School

April Aycock— Office of the Sheriff: Monroe County

Yamalis Hernandez— Monroe High School

Craig Waleed— Catholic Family Center, St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, Office of the Sheriff: Monroe

Meghan Lentner- Greece Arcadia High School

Mike Sykes— Gates Chili High School

Michael Cole— School Without Walls

# Student Features

## Meet Kristen Roach, College Counseling Track



When I first started the program, I also started working at an executive search firm working with people from across the country to help them find and explore job opportunities. As I worked with these individuals, oftentimes, I found myself doing career counseling, and really enjoyed it! This sparked my interest in doing career counseling at the college level. I find it fascinating how people's careers develop and evolve throughout the course of their lives, particularly during the college years when much of this becomes salient.

I am currently in my final semester of the program, and as I look back on my journey, I do not think I could have done it without the support and encouragement of the faculty and my fellow students.

There have been high points, and low ones, but overall I would not change a thing. The best advice I can give is to stay attuned to who you are and what's going on for you throughout the process, and know that the faculty is there to help.

## Meet Megan Taylor, Mental Health Track



I earned my undergraduate degree in psychology and have always been fascinated by the inner workings of the mind. I wanted to take this interest and combine with another interest of helping people. That combination of interests is why I chose the Mental Health Counseling Program. My experience so far in the program has brought me a long way since starting. I am learning the steps to be a great counselor and hope to continue learning even well after I graduate. After I earn my degree, I hope to gain my license in Mental Health Counseling and use my skills in an agency. I'm not sure what my specialty will be yet, but I can't wait to figure it out. Eventually, after gaining many years of experience in mental health agencies, I hope to have my own private practice. I want to use the skills this program has given me and will continue to give me to help others in their time of need.

## Yamalis Hernandez, School Counseling Track



I decided to enter the field of counseling because I wanted a degree that would develop my skills in providing direct services in the helping profession. Although my experience prior to beginning the program was in the areas of Human Services, a large portion of what I did focused on the administrative parts of programs, which entailed focusing on budgets, program outcomes, and human resource type issues. About 5 years after I graduated with my undergraduate degree, I felt pretty burnt out, not in working in human services, but in doing the kind of work that I was doing. When I thought about the times in my life that I felt inspired and fulfilled, I realized these were times when I was providing direct services and support to others, which largely came from my volunteer experiences. I decided then that I needed a transition, but found little success in getting hired because of my lack of direct service skills. Therefore, I decided the only way I was going to achieve this was through pursuing a degree that involved building on my people skills, and found that the field of counseling fit my needs. I became especially intrigued in working in a school setting because I knew I wanted to do something with adolescents, and found that a school setting was a place where I felt I could meet the needs of students best. I am now in my first semester in Implementation at Monroe High School, and once again feel the inspiration and motivation that I had lost a while back.

## Alumni Feature: Meet Nicholas A. Cocilova

### Martha Brown School Counselor



**My Role:** I am a middle school counselor at Martha Brown Middle School in Fairport.

**How long:** Currently, I am in my 14th year.

About my Role

and what Inspires me:

I honestly feel fortunate to have the greatest job in the world. In my role as counselor, I am responsible for two hundred and eighty sixth grade students and move with them through seventh and eighth grade. Working with the same students through three grade levels is an excellent design, which benefits our counselor/student relationship tremendously. What echoes daily in my head as I work with my students is a phrase I remember from Dr. Jayne Vogan, a former professor at Brockport. She said, "Working with a client is like waiting for him or her to open a door and then walking

through it with them." This resonates for me because it reminds me to always clear my mind of any interpretations or ideas "I" may have about what a kid is sharing with me, until they make the unknown known (opening a door and hearing it clearly), and then walking through it with them. Although simple in its expression, I have relied on this mantra numerous times when I am not understanding what a child, parent or teacher is sharing with me.

I am very fortunate in my career to be surrounded with an extremely talented department and learn constantly from those relationships. My biggest goal professionally will be utilizing current technologies in the counseling department. Our department will be moving into a brand new facility complete with smart-boards, wireless systems and electronic student information files. These technologies will enhance our counseling groups and parent/teacher meetings by providing a wide variety of informa-

tion immediately, while making collective decisions with and for kids.

Finally, in my personal life my wife is a second grade teacher in Fairport and our daughter is a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh and both are my heroes. We also spoil a 10 year old chocolate lab named Nala. In addition, we spend our free time with numerous extended family members and independent of those relationships, I enjoy cycling, golfing and reading. Finally, being an effective middle school counselor requires a tremendous amount of energy and humor. In order to stay focused daily, I have found what works best for me is maintaining a constant balance between body, mind and spirit.



### Congratulations to our May and December Graduates!



#### May 2009

Megan Barrell- School

Stephanie Bliss- School

Nafisah Clay- Mental Health

Heide Fuchs-Talone- CAS

Keisha Manning- School

Eileen Myer- School

Elena Pilato- Mental Health

Melissa Sakofsky- School

Latoya Taylor- Community Counseling

#### December 2009

William Broome- School

Mary Corteville- School

Krystal Dunning- School

Doris Hernandez- Mental Health

Sally Howe- School

Kimberly Ball- School

Lindsay Kirchoff- School

Joshua Maldonado- Mental Health

Mary Moses- Mental Health

Lindsay Rachow- Mental Health

Kate Stanford- Mental Health

Latoya Taylor- Mental Health

Yao-Szu Tsou- Mental Health



*Save the Date*

Try to attend at least one of these events to strengthen your professional network and development. Check out the student conference rates!



### Save the Date!

The Counselor Education Fall Picnic will be held on Sept. 10th. Everyone is invited! ... details to follow!

New Student Orientation will also be on Sept. 10th and will begin at 9am and last until 4pm.

## Conferences and Key Dates

- ⇒ American Counseling Association Conference, March 23-27, 2011
- ⇒ Western New York School Counselors Consortium Conference, February 2011
- ⇒ New York Mental Health Counselors Association (Rochester Chapter)- 2nd Saturday of every month, Metro Center, 10 am - 12pm
- ⇒ Chi Sigma Iota (Nu Chapter), 1st Saturday of every month, Metro Center, 1st Floor Conference Room, 9:45-11:00 am

### *Students Advocating for the Profession*

The following are excerpts from letters forwarded by Brockport students Nick Delaney, Patrick Ducey, and Dan Kandris on a meeting that they attended in Albany with state officials regarding the practice of Licensed Mental Health Counseling in New York State:

On March 30th, faculty and students from the College at Brockport Counselor Education program, as well as a faculty member from the University of Rochester, met with Deputy Commissioner Frank Muñoz and Dr. David Hamilton from the State Education Department Office of Professions, and representatives from the Higher Education Office of Program Review, to discuss registering of non-licensed mental health organizations that conduct mental health services (corporate practice), and the issue of whether or not Licensed Mental Health Counselors can provide initial diagnosis in practice.

Of these two issues, I believe that the “diagnosis” issue is the most pressing for students in our department. In the field of mental health in New York State, mental health counselors are a small fish in a big pond that includes psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, and licensed master’s social workers. As the law stands currently, a two-tiered system is being put into place where psychiatrists, psychologists, nurse practitioners, and licensed clinical social workers have the ability to provide an initial diagnosis with the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM -IV). This is a major advantage in that intake appointments at most clinics require a diagnosis in order to bill third party payers. Many insurance companies will not pay for services unless a diagnosis is given. Therefore, persons that are able to do an initial diagnosis will be more valuable to organizations. This advantage will undoubtedly lead to limited job advancement for mental health counselors in the State of New York unless the law is revised.

The Office of Professions stated that they could not do anything to change the scope of practice in the law. Instead, our course of action must be to contact local state legislators and committee members to voice our concern in Albany that diagnosis be included within our scope of practice. Now, I am aware that we must be our greatest advocates and inform the public and Albany of our skills and concerns regarding the future of our profession.

I was able to see my professors fight for my future. I am not sure any words can describe the feeling I got when I realized that these educators cared about more than my performance in the classroom. If nothing else, I left the State Education Building with the feeling that I was worth the fight, and the knowledge that I was far from alone in it. So today, I stand at the start of a long and daunting path. I cannot say where it ends, nor can I say how long it will take to reach the illuminated end. The one thing that I do know is that I will never walk the path alone, and I encourage you to join us as well.

I have begun writing legislators and emailing state officials. I encourage each individual in the counseling field to do the same. This is our future, and it is up to us to make a change.

### You can help!

Thank you to Brockport students who sent post cards to state legislators about diagnosis in the scope of practice. Post cards are still available if anyone needs one (rdobmeie@brockport.edu or 395-5090). Future endeavors include involving consumers and our fellow professions in dialogue about working together to help those with mental health needs.

Jesse Williams, member of our Newsletter Committee, interviews faculty members, Dr. Goodspeed & Dr. Fallon to learn more about their professional journey, and vision.

# Dr. Goodspeed Grant

With little knowledge that she would eventually find her calling in counseling, Dr. Goodspeed Grant began her career as a legal assistant. As a single mother with three kids to support, and no college education, Dr. Goodspeed Grant began to consider continuing her education so as to better her situation. Though it was not necessarily the logical next step, Dr. Goodspeed Grant decided to pursue an interest in psychology through studies at Empire State College. Upon completing her degree, she had a new feeling of confidence, and a strong sense that her educational voyage was just beginning. Though Dr. Goodspeed Grant's background was in the legal profession, she found law to be too adversarial, and incompatible with her developing worldview.

Finding a career path, for Dr. Goodspeed Grant, was characterized by "taking calculated risks" rather than by "just letting things come to [her]." One of her biggest risks was in the pursuit of her graduate degree. After some deliberation, she decided that she would pursue the track of Industrial Organizational Psychology at Springfield College in Massachusetts. She rented out the house that she owned, moved with her youngest child, and began her program as an older student. She began by taking 16 credit hours of classes while working simultaneously. Despite her interest in the field, through her studies, Dr. Goodspeed Grant discovered that Industrial Organizational Psychology was not what she hoped it would be. While her interest was in helping individuals, Industrial Organizational Psych. had a stigma as being manipulative toward individuals, and was associated with taking the side of big business and industry. Additionally, she began to discover that she had some interest in the field of counseling. In her program, she took a counseling theory course that piqued her curiosity, and planted seeds of interest. She later took a Group Counseling course that not only gave her a feel for the process of counseling, but also, provided her feedback from peers that indicated she had some natural gifts.

Following her newfound interest and skills in counseling, Dr. Goodspeed Grant began doctoral studies in Counseling and Human Development at the University of Rochester. Professor Goodspeed Grant received an assistantship doing supervision with Masters level students, as well as scholarships to help her continue her education. Also, she found that she had to take some temp jobs to help pay her way. Soon after enrolling at the U. of R., Dr. Goodspeed Grant took a position as a Vocational Counselor, counseling displaced workers. Not only did this position pay much better than her temp positions, but it also got her foot in the door of the counseling field. This position gave her invaluable experience dealing with clients who were struggling with major life transitions, loss, and issues such as substance abuse. Concurrently, Dr. Goodspeed Grant jumped at an opportunity that arose at Alfred University. They needed a Statistical Methods teacher and Dr. Goodspeed Grant saw a chance to explore if teaching might be interesting to her. The feedback she received was good, and she decided to proceed down the path of counselor education. Eventually, she was hired on a tenure-track to teach four courses at Alfred, and faced the challenge of being hired with only two weeks to prepare!

Dr. Goodspeed Grant ended up spending two years at Alfred, but found that she was not able to follow one of her other primary interests: qualitative research. She looks forward to continuing to expand her international work as a researcher and a counselor educator. She has great interest in continuing to serve as a mentor to students and help them pursue their own avenues of research. She has an eagerness to continue exploring ways in which to bring practice and research together. Locally, Dr. Goodspeed Grant is active in New York Mental Health Counselor's Association's (NYMHCA) pursuit to continue working toward resolving the licensure issues with which the Mental Health Counseling profession is faced. Dr. Goodspeed Grant stressed that "being open to possibilities", along with, taking "calculated risks", helped her find her path and develop the interests, about which she is passionate.

# Dr. Fallon

Dr. Fallon's road to becoming a counselor began when she was a child. Through her childhood years, Dr. Fallon's father was a counselor, doing crisis counseling and human relations work at a community college. She recalls vividly how impressed she was when her father was called out in the middle of the night to help a man who was suicidal; threatening to jump off a bridge. Her interest in her father's work may not have immediately translated into an interest in counseling, per se, but it set the stage. Early on, Dr. Fallon found that she was curious about, and "paid attention to how people were" and was sure that she wanted "to be someone who could offer help." Her father even pointed out that she seemed to surround herself with people who weren't doing well. He suggested that she should become a counselor because, in essence, she was already halfway there.

After studying religion and psychology in her undergraduate work, she went on to get a Master of Education and Specialist in Education degrees from the University of Florida in 1996. After spending the next 4-5 years working in the field, Dr. Fallon made a decision to go for her Doctoral degree. Dr. Fallon never pictured herself reaching the doctoral level, and, in fact, she questioned if she had the "brains" to pull it off. Ultimately, the decision to take the next step was last minute, largely intuitive and far from planned out. While during her Master's program Dr. Fallon faced many of her personal demons, in her doctoral program she was faced with doubts concerning her academic abilities and confidence. Soon, she found that she was up to the task, and was learning new, better ways, to articulate her ideas and craft her arguments. She was also learning that, in addition to her passion for counseling, she truly loved to teach!

Dr. Fallon worked for four years teaching and administrating at the University of Florida before she was laid off and forced to look for a new job. While losing her job was not easy, Dr. Fallon viewed it as an act of synchronicity that gave her an opportunity to spend time with her ailing mother and ultimately be closer to her father who also fell ill. Also, she felt very much at home in the Brockport program. She was impressed that Brockport was the one program that, during her interview, asked, "What are you working on for your personal growth?" Her love of the program at Brockport, combined with the cool upstate weather and the friendly people, made Rochester the "complete package."

Dr. Fallon views her journey as one in which she is constantly learning, growing, and evaluating herself. She stressed that she is only 20 miles into a 1000 mile journey, and that she learns everyday from her students and colleagues. She looks forward to continue mentoring and helping students achieve their academic and professional goals. Personally, she will continue working toward developing a genuine, seamless identity as a scholar, educator, mentor, and counselor.

A favorite book of Dr. Fallon is "The World according to Mr. Rogers." She enjoys how he can articulately break down a very complex world.

# Faculty News



**Thomas J. Hernández, EdD, LMHC**

Dr. Hernández presented in February 2010 with alumna Eileen Myer ('09) on *Texting and Sexting* in school settings at the Western New York School Counseling Consortium Conference. In addition, he co-authored, with Robin Hernández from the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, an article to be published in the NYSSCA Journal on *Cyberbullying: A Study of the Online Behaviors of Middle School Students*. Dr. Hernández recently returned from a trip where he served the counseling profession as a CACREP Site Team Member, evaluating a counseling program at another university applying for CACREP accreditation.

Dr. Hernández has also gone through *Site Team Member Training* with the new CACREP 2009 Standards at the ACA Conference in Pittsburgh, PA.



**PATRICIA GOODSPEED GRANT, EDD, NCC, LMHC.**

Dr. Pat Goodspeed Grant did a poster presentation on "Learning to Work: Meanings of Work from a Developmental Lifespan Perspective" at the 2010 ACA Conference in Pittsburgh. Pat also attended the New York Mental Health Counseling Association Conference in Albany this month. Pat is the treasurer of the Association for Adult Development and Aging.



**KATHLEEN FALLON, PHD, NCC, IMH**

In Fall 2009, I joined an ongoing research project with Monroe High School and Partners in Restorative Initiatives (PIRI). The project is designed to improve school climate by implementing into the school culture restorative practices, including peace circles. My role will be to evaluate the effectiveness of the programs implemented. I work with the Monroe High School counselor and two PIRI volunteers, including Brockport counselor ed. alum and retired school counselor, Jeanne Carlivati. Dr. Seem and I presented a workshop, *Building Bridges: Connecting Counselors and Restorative Justice Practitioners to Attend to Mental Health Needs of Victims, Offenders, and Community Members*, at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Western

New York Restorative Justice Conference. This spring, I am collaborating with my partner Elaine on a manuscript for consideration in an upcoming special edition focusing on social justice. The piece looks at pre-marital counseling needs for LGB couples. Also, I am developing a manuscript reviewing the literature on designing, implementing, and evaluating restorative practices in school settings. Finally, this winter I have been busy adapting my classes to the new 2009 CACREP standards, redesigning syllabi and linking class activities and assignments to learning outcomes. I'm applying new knowledge I gained when Dr. Seem and I attended the 2009 Lilly Conference for college teachings in November.



# Faculty News



## **SUMMER REINER, PHD, LMHC, NCC**

This spring when Dr. Hernandez accepted the Department Chair position, Dr. Reiner assumed many of his duties including, serving as the Clinical Coordinator, the Admissions Committee Chair, and the department liaison for the Western New York School Counseling Consortium Conference. As the clinical coordinator, Dr. Reiner co-attended the "Albany Meeting" with Dr. Hernandez, Dr. Dobmeier, and several Counselor Education students. They met with Mr. Frank Muñoz, Dr. David Hamilton, and several other individuals who represented the Office of Professions and Office of Higher Education, to encourage them to re-interpret of the LMHC Scope of Practice and effectively recognize that LMHCs have the authority to diagnose clients. Dr. Reiner has also been busy with her scholarship endeavors. This past fall semester, Dr. Dobmeier and Dr. Reiner submitted a manuscript to ASERVIC, a division of ACA, titled "Spirituality in counselor education curriculum: A national study of student perceptions." Drs. Dobmeier and Reiner presented the findings of the aforementioned research this October at the ACES Conference in San Diego, CA, and in March at the ACA conference in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Reiner also served as a panel member of a round-table presentation at the ACA Conference titled, "Transitions across the Adult Lifespan." As a panel member, Dr. Reiner presented on, "Adult Children as Caregivers to their Parents." Dr. Reiner also mentored two students (Yamalis Hernandez and Kathryn Gallup) in preparation for their poster presentation at the ACA conference. In October and in March, Dr. Reiner served as a speaker for the BOCES II: Monroe- Orleans School Counselor Conferences. She presented on comprehensive school counseling programs. She was invited by five school districts to provide additional information about comprehensive school counseling programs. She also was invited to present at two Superintendent's Conference Days for two school districts. In the spring semester, Dr. Reiner served as a presenter for the Chi Sigma Iota, Nu Chapter and Department of Counselor Education co-sponsored event, "State of the Counseling Profession in NY." She shared her thoughts about the current state of affairs in school counseling in NY. Most recently, Dr. Reiner was invited, as the President of the Association of Adult Development and Aging (a division of the American Counseling Association), to serve as the keynote speaker for the Chi Sigma Iota, Psi Chi Gamma Chapter inductions on April 24<sup>th</sup> at Canisius College. She was also invited to serve as a panel member for a round-table presentation at the NARACES conference this fall. Drs. Dobmeier and Reiner will be co-presenting at two conferences this summer. At the AADA Conference in Manhattan this July, they will present on "Spirituality as a Resource for Exploring End-of-Life Decisions." In August, they will be presenting their current research study, focused on the spiritual competence of practicing counselors, at the ASERVIC conference in South Carolina. Dr. Reiner was also invited to write a book chapter focused on adult development. She is also in the end stages of co-writing a book chapter on a new adult developmental model with Dr. Larry Burlew at Montclair State University. Finally, Drs. Hernandez and Reiner are currently working on a manuscript that explores the future direction of school counseling.



## **ROBERT DOBMEIER, PHD, LMHC, CRC**

Dr. Bob Dobmeier presented "Spirituality as a Resource for School Counselors: Helping Students Facing Failure, Violence, Mental Health and Drug Problems" at the ACA Conference in Pittsburg, where he also joined Dr. Summer Reiner in presenting "Counselor Educators on Teaching Spirituality in Counseling: Student Preparedness, Salient Topics and Learning Modalities." Summer and Bob will present "Spirituality as a Resource for Exploring End-of-Life Decisions" at the AADA Conference in Manhattan this July and in August will present on a research study on the spiritual competence of counselors at the ASERVIC conference in Myrtle Beach. Bob submitted a manuscript on "Spirituality as a resource for school counselors: Opportunities and challenges" and is finishing a manuscript with Dr. Tom Hernandez and students from his Research and Program Evaluation course on a study of signs, risk factors, and services for mental health problems on college campuses. Bob worked with Dr. Kitty Fallon, Nu Chapter, students, and other faculty to organize the January 23<sup>rd</sup> State of the Counseling Profession held at RIT. The event consisted of college, mental health, and school counselors and students from local counselor education programs coming together to address issues requiring advocacy in the counseling field. Bob worked with NYMHCA, department students and faculty, and educators at the University of Rochester and St. John Fisher College, to arrange a meeting with Mr. Frank Muñoz, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Professions and Mr. Bill Murphy, Office of Higher Education. The purpose of the March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting was to express concerns about the need to include diagnosis in the scope of practice for Licensed Mental Health Counselors, and the need to revise corporate practice law, allowing the provision of mental health services in group practices that are not licensed by the state. For the college's Scholars Day, students in Research and Program Evaluation conducted poster presentations of their action research projects, which sought the views of school counselors on use of spirituality in the school environment and practices of mental health agency and college counseling directors on hiring Mental Health Counselors. Dr. Dobmeier was elected secretary of AADA, joining Dr. Reiner as President and Dr. Patricia Goodspeed Grant as Treasurer on the leadership team.

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## **SUSAN SEEM, PHD, NCC, LMHC, ACS.**

In January 2010, Dr. Susan Seem began a new, temporary position as Assistant to the Provost for Graduate Education and Scholarship. She plans to return to the Department fall semester 2011. The Department wishes Susan the best in her new role!

I would like to express appreciation to Yama Hernandez, Department Graduate Assistant, for coordination, lay out, and writing of the spring 2010 edition of Counselors Corner. Thanks, also, to Jesse Williams, member of the Newsletter Committee, and to all of the students, alumni, and faculty who contributed to the newsletter.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading the newsletter! Please feel free to provide Yama or me feedback and ideas for future publications.

Sincerely,  
Bob Dobmeier